

Eritrea's government also deserves scrutiny. It continues to act at times as if it were still a leadership cell within a liberation movement. The press in Eritrea is tightly controlled, local NGO's who gain too much foreign support come under suspicion and are frequently shut down by the government, and the sole political party raises revenues through national and international front companies. Eritrea's leadership has cut deals with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi and made highly personal attacks on senior United States officials. When asked why they agreed to the peace agreement only after Ethiopia militarily pushed them back well into Eritrea from one area they'd occupied, they say that it was a matter of "national sovereignty."

This resolution is, in my opinion, an extremely mild expression of the deep frustration and disappointment that many of us feel. We are dismayed that two countries with extraordinary human capital, a firm commitment to nation-building, and a rich international base of support have chosen to reenact World War I's Battle of the Somme with modern weaponry.

What a terrible waste.

I support this measure and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JOHN
SPARKMAN OF HUNTSVILLE,
ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long-standing citizen of my district, Mrs. Ivo Sparkman, widow of U.S. Senator John Sparkman. Mrs. Sparkman passed away last week, 2 weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday.

During their 62 year marriage, Senator and Mrs. Sparkman made their way from Albertville, Alabama all the way to Washington, D.C. and then settled in downtown Huntsville.

In later years, Mrs. Sparkman discovered a real artistic talent, painting, and she produced several colorful paintings for family and friends. She also possessed a true love for nature enjoying gardening and bird-watching.

As the wife of a longtime U.S. Senator, Mrs. Sparkman exhibited a keen interest in politics and hosted many dignitaries at her home through the years. The Sparkman's time in Washington proved very beneficial to my district as Huntsville's space program began to thrive under their leadership.

Alabama and the nation displayed their affection for Mrs. Sparkman at her October 6th birthday party. Former U.S. Senator Howell Heflin attended the party, held on "Ivo Sparkman Day" as proclaimed by Mayor Loretta Spencer and Governor Don Siegelman. Letters poured in from all over including special notes from Lady Bird Johnson and Annie and John Glenn.

I believe this is a fitting tribute for one who has dedicated many years to serving the nation and Alabama. I send my condolences to

the Sparkman family. On behalf of the people of Alabama's 5th Congressional District, I join them in celebrating the extraordinary life and honoring the memory of a wonderful lady, Mrs. Ivo Sparkman.

OPPOSITION TO THE CONFERENCE
REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2000
COMMERCE-JUSTICE-STATE AP-
PROPRIATIONS, H.R. 2670

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, my statement in opposition to the Commerce, State, Justice Appropriations Conference Report on the Fiscal Year 2000 Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill was inadvertently left out of the RECORD. The following is the statement I had prepared.

I have the greatest respect for the Chairman and Ranking Members of this Subcommittee and am, therefore, disappointed in the need to oppose the Conference Report, however it is deficient in several critical ways, particularly in not paying our UN debt, in not including the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and in under funding the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program.

First, this Conference Report does not provide the needed funds to address one of our greatest and most immediate current foreign policy needs. The Conference Report does not provide the funding to pay our United Nations dues.

Great nations pay their bills. It is a travesty and a very poor reflection on this institution that the United States has fallen more than \$1 billion behind in our payments to the U.N.

Today, we could and should be solving this problem. However, the Republican leadership has chosen, instead, to allow this important international obligation to be held hostage to the domestic politics of the far-right by continuing the connection between U.N. dues and the unrelated issue of restrictions on international family planning.

There are many consequences to the U.S. not paying its UN bills. Most immediately, if we do not pay a significant portion of our arrears this year, we will automatically lose our vote in the General Assembly. I cannot believe that this Congress could even consider allowing such a step to occur—but, unfortunately, it has done so repeatedly in the past few years and there is a real possibility that it will again this year. In light of the majority's recent rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in the Senate, not paying our UN dues marches this Congress further down the path of neo-isolationism.

We used to be told by our colleagues who oppose the UN that their objections to UN funding were based on concerns about inefficiencies and bureaucracy at the UN. Those issues have been and continue to be addressed. The UN is reforming. We use our leverage to continue those reforms when we continue as a deadbeat in our dues.

Now, of course, our U.N. dues have not been paid because they are being held hos-

tage to a totally unrelated matter—the Mexico City gag rule and the politics of the religious right on the other side of the aisle. It is long past time for this to stop and for the United States to live up to its international obligations.

The people of San Francisco, who I am honored to represent here in Congress, understand the importance of the United Nations. Our great City is the birthplace of the UN—the UN's Founding Charter was signed in San Francisco over 50 years ago. San Francisco's interest in the UN goes well beyond our historical connections to the institution. San Franciscans take seriously the principles and the ideals behind the UN, including the belief that a multinational institution can play a valuable role in conflict resolution and the promotion of peace.

I believe that the U.S. has a national interest in a reformed United Nations that functions effectively and efficiently. We must provide it with the needed resources.

The second major problem with this Conference Report is the removal by the Conference Committee of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

One year ago, many of us spoke on this floor about the tragic and brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student. Matthew was courageously willing to be open about who he was. He suffered because of who he was. This is simply wrong.

Unfortunately, Matthew is not alone. According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence programs, in 1998, 33 Americans were murdered because they were gay or lesbian. In the United States last year, there were at least 2,552 reports of anti-gay or lesbian incidents. The number of serious assaults in which victims sustained major injuries grew by 12%.

Hate crimes take many forms and affect many different kinds of victims. We all remember the horrible murder last year of James Byrd, Jr., an African-American man in Texas. We all remember earlier this year, when a gunman opened fire at a Jewish Community Center and then singled out an Asian American and shot him. How many more deaths, how many assaults on the personal integrity of people, need to happen before this Congress will see the need for hate crimes legislation?

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would provide law enforcement officials with needed tools to fight these crimes, and would serve as a lasting tribute to the lives of Matthew Shepard, James Byrd, Jr., and the others who have been victimized by hate crimes. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would not end all violence against people because they are gay, or African-American, or Jewish, or come from another country. Nonetheless, this legislation would allow the federal government to investigate and punish crimes motivated by hate. If this law prevents one hate-driven death, it will be justified.

The murder of Matthew Shepard is the manifestation of the enduring bigotry that still prevails in our society. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act should be included in the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill.

I also believe that this Conference Report is deficient because it provides only \$325 million for the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program. This funding level is a cut of \$1.1 billion below last year's funding and \$950